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SECRET INVASION



ETERNALS

KNAUF
ACUÑA

DIRECT EDITION



BEHOLD, MORTALS, THE ETERNALS! CREATED BY COSMIC BEINGS CALLED THE CELESTIALS AND TASKED WITH SAFEGUARDING THE EARTH, THE ETERNALS ARE AN IMMORTAL GROUP OF HEROES WHOSE NEAR LIMITLESS POWER IS UNLIKE ANYTHING HUMANITY HAS EVER KNOWN!



MAKKARI



SERSI



THENA



IKARIS



GILGAMESH



ZURAS



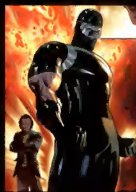
JOEY (Thena's Son)



THE TRUTH REVEALED! THE EARTH IS A REPOSITORY OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER, AND *MAKKARI* AND THE *DREAMING CELESTIAL* ARE THE ONLY THINGS STANDING IN THE WAY OF A HARVESTING OF ENERGY WHOSE CATASTROPHIC POTENTIAL THREATENS TO DESTABILIZE THE FULCRUM ITSELF! BUT *SERSI* DOES NOT TRUST WHAT COMMUNICATING WITH THE CELESTIAL IS DOING TO MAKKARI.

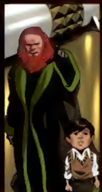
IN GERMANY, *THENA* CONFRONTS *PHASTOS*, WHO BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE AN ENGINEER BY THE NAME OF "PHILIP STOSS." BUT HELPING PHASTOS TO REMEMBER HIS TRUE IDENTITY PROVES MORE DIFFICULT THAN THENA ANTICIPATES. WITH TIME RUNNING OUT, WILL THENA AND *IKARIS* BE ABLE TO RECRUIT ETERNALS IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO COMBAT *DRUIG*?





MEANWHILE, *AJAK* HAS FOLLOWED IKARIS' INSTRUCTIONS AND INFILTRATED DRUIG'S SEARCH, BUT HIS REASONS FOR DOING SO ARE DECIDEDLY SELFISH. AFTER PRYING THE LOCATION OF *GILGAMESH* 'THE FORGOTTEN ONE' FROM ONE OF DRUIG'S GENERALS, AJAK FINDS GILGAMESH AND GIVES HIM ONE SIMPLE INSTRUCTION: DESTROY THE ETERNALS.

BUT THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE ETERNALS' CURRENTLY RESIDES IN THEIR HOME, OLYMPIA, ITSELF! IN THE CARE OF *ZURAS*, THE HORDE SPY WITHIN THENA'S SON *JOEY* HAS GAINED ACCESS TO THE INMOST SECRETS OF THE ETERNALS SEAT OF POWER!



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WHA-BOOM!

PHASTOS!

PHASTOS! RISE!

WHOMP!

THE OTHERS ARE FALTERING. WE NEED YOUR HAMMER! NOW!

WAIT... WH-WHERE AM I?

HE IS WEARING ARMOR--AN IMPENETRABLE DEVIANT ALLOY FROM DAMASCUS.

BOOM!

wha-BOOM!

WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT HAMMER?

THE HAMMER IN YOUR RIGHT HAND, FOOL!

LET US PRAY IT LIVES UP TO YOUR BOASTS. NOW MOVE!

I SAID MOVE!

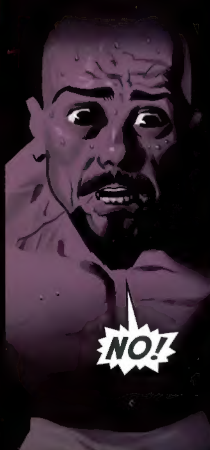


EGYPT, ELEVENTH CENTURY B.C.

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STOSS RESIDENCE, NOW.





VOROZHEIKA, DRUIG AND LEGBA.

THERE'RE VERY FEW THINGS I'LL MISS ABOUT HUMANITY...

..."LA SYLPHIDE" IS ONE OF THEM.

THE ONE DANCING PRIMA IS--

--EXQUISITE, YES?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY, DRUIG, BUT I GUESS IT'LL DO.

YOU'RE CRUDE, LEGBA. YOU SPENT TOO MUCH TIME AMONG THE PRIMATES.

GLORIOUS LEADER...?

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

GENERAL STOYANOVICH. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE BALLET?

THE ONE YOU SEEK HAS BEEN LOCATED OUTSIDE GOIANA, BRAZIL.

HE IS A MEMBER OF A TRAVELING SHOW. A WRESTLER OF SOME KIND.

A *LUCHADOR?*

I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THEMSELVES, YES, SIR.

MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS...

...TAKE ME TO HIM.

OLYMPIAN COMPOUND,
SEAQUARIUM, ANTARCTICA.
ZURAS, MAKKARI AND JOEY.

ETERNAL MAKKARI HAS BEEN CO-OPTED BY TIAMUT, ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF PROCESS BY ROGUE CELESTIALS...

SO THE OTHERS TURNED ON THE DREAMING CELESTIAL?

AND *BURIED HIM,* YES, ZURAS.

IT *MUST* BE AS AJAK SAYS. THIS DREAMING CELESTIAL IS *DEFECTIVE* IN SOME WAY.

MUST CONFIRM ALLEGATION PRIOR TO PLANETARY HARVEST...

WHAT YOU SAY MAKES NO SENSE, THIS... STRANGE COSMOLOGY. FULCRUM? IT'S ABSURD.

ABSURD, YES, BUT INHERENTLY LOGICAL. EVERYTHING TIAMUT HAS REVEALED TO ME TRACKS PERFECTLY WITH ALL WE KNOW.

HAVE YOU INFORMED IKARIS?

I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH HIM.

YOU SHOULD TELL MY MOM!

SHE CAN DO *ANYTHING!*


OH, WE'LL TELL THENA, MY BOY!
NOW, GO PLAY WITH SOCRATES A LITTLE WHILE SO MAKKARI AND I CAN TALK.
N'KAY. CAN WE GO LOOK AROUND THE OBSA... OBSERV--
--OBSERVATION CENTER! THAT'S A GRAND IDEA! NOW RUN OFF!


YOU SHOWED AN OUTSIDER THE OBSERVATION CENTER?!
HE'S A BOY. WHAT HARM CAN IT DO?


MY POINT EXACTLY. HE'S A BOY. A MORTAL BOY. HE'S NOT BOUND BY OUR LAWS AND EDICTS.
HE'S MY BLOOD, MAKKARI.


WHAT I DO WITH MY KIN IS NO BUSINESS OF YOURS!
MONITOR AND DISSEMINATE...


GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO. SERSI AND THE DREAMING CELESTIAL.
TELL ME, WHY?

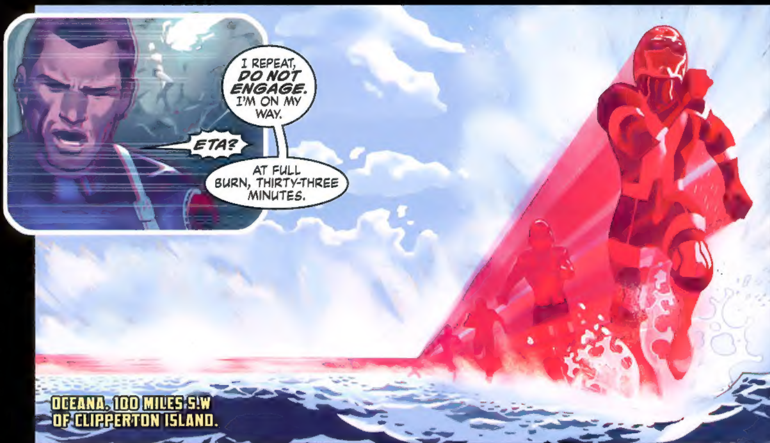

WHY ARE YOU KILLING MAKKARI?!

WHAT?! NOTHING TO SAY?!

ANSWER ME, COWARD!
"DIRECTOR STARK?"

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.
TONY STARK, IRON MAN.
ANOTHER SITUATION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

DAMN IT, SERSI...
AGENT SANDERSON, DO NOT ENGAGE.


I REPEAT, DO NOT ENGAGE. I'M ON MY WAY.
ETA?
AT FULL BURN, THIRTY-THREE MINUTES.
OCEANA. 100 MILES S.W OF CLIPPERTON ISLAND.


HEAR ME, MAKKARI.
TIAMUT, WHA--?


WHA-WHOOOOOOSH!


I AM CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK BY (CLASSIFICATION: ETERNAL) SERSI.
IF SHE CONTINUES HER ENGAGEMENT, MY DEFENSES WILL RESULT IN HER (DISFUNCTION/TERMINATION).

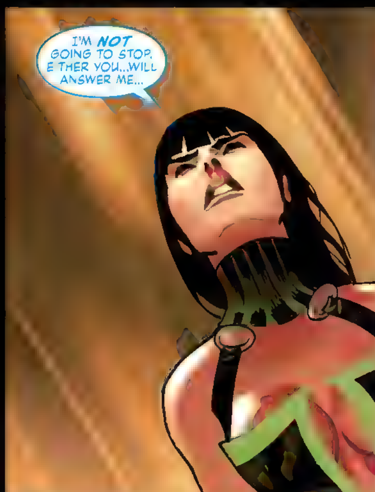




CABO SAN LUCAS.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM...
YOU HEAR THAT, TIFF?
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IT--
MM-HMM.

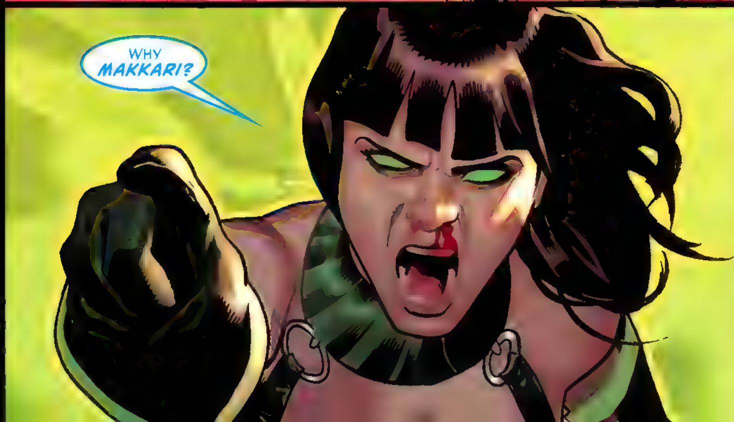


BOOOM!!

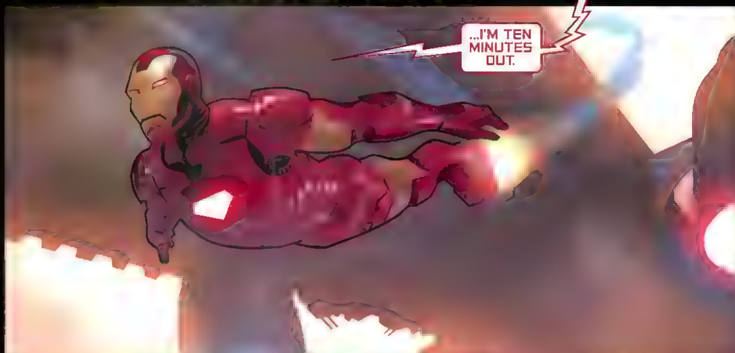

I'M NOT GOING TO STOP. EITHER YOU...WILL ANSWER ME...


...OR I... WILL DIE... ASKING
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DECLARE?
LET'S SEE... A SERAPE, TWO CLAY DONKEYS FOR THE GARDEN, A BOTTLE OF KAHLUA AND A--


FFFOOM!


WHY MAKKARI?


TELL ME!
THIS IS, UHM...GETTING KINDA NUTS HERE, IRON MAN.
STAND BY...


...I'M TEN MINUTES OUT.


IF YOU WISH TO (PRESERVE/SALVAGE) THE FEMALE, YOU MUST HASTEN TO ME.
PLEASE, NO. DON'T HURT HER!


Gorman
HER (DISFUNCTION/ TERMINATION) IS NOT WITHIN MY DISCRETION.


CHA-
BOOM!

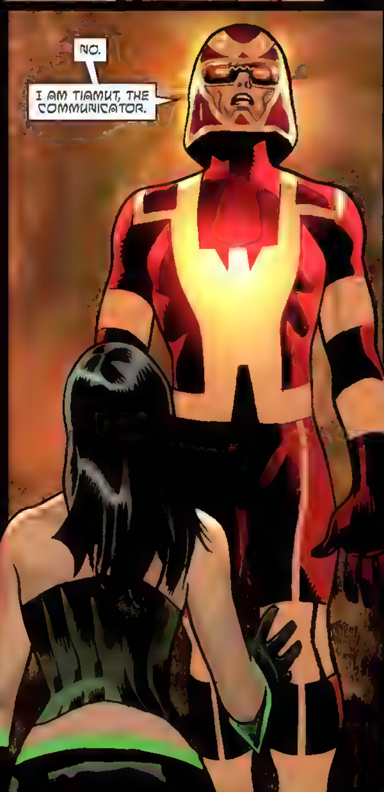

YOU-
YOU'RE NO GOD...


...NO GOD WOULD...


SERSI!

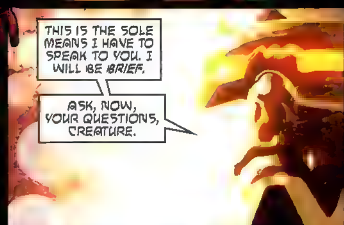

I...I JUST WANTED IT...
...TO STOP HURTING YOU.


I MEAN HIM NO HARM.
MAKKARI?!


NO.
I AM TIAMUT, THE COMMUNICATOR.


DO NOT BE ALARMED--
KEEP AWAY FROM ME!


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM?!
MAKKARI IS SAFE FOR THE MOMENT. BUT I CANNOT USE HIM IN THIS MANNER LONG OR HE WILL BE DAMAGED.


THIS IS THE SOLE MEANS I HAVE TO SPEAK TO YOU. I WILL BE BRIEF.
ASK, NOW, YOUR QUESTIONS, CREATURE.

WHY ARE YOU USING MAKKARI?
I NEED A VESSEL. ONE CHOSEN, THEN ALTERED TO HANDLE COMMUNICATION WITH ONE SUCH AS MYSELF.
THE CELESTIAL LANGUAGE CONSISTS OF OVER TWELVE MILLION LEXICALLY DISTINCT PITCH-ACCENTS.
TO SPEAK THEM WOULD DRIVE INDIVIDUALS UNDER A CLASS-THREE SENTIENCE INTO A STATE OF CHRONIC INSANITY OR CATATONIA.
WHY NOT *AJAK?*
BECAUSE HE IS NOT MAKKARI.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
IT MUST BE MAKKARI. I HAVE BEEN *ENHANCING* HIM--
NO! YOU'VE BEEN *KILLING* HIM!
I PROTECT MAKKARI IN MY WAY, BUT I CANNOT PROTECT HIM WITHIN *YOUR* REALM...
I HAVE DELEGATED THAT FUNCTION TO YOU.
TO *ME?*
MAKKARI...? *MAKKARI?!*
SERSI--
I--I THOUGHT... HOW DID YOU--
YES. I HAVE VASTLY INCREASED *YOUR* POWERS AS WELL. DID YOU NOT NOTICE?
--THIS DIALOGUE IS NOW TERMINATED.


--WHAT THE *HELL* DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?


TAKE YOUR PEOPLE AND GO. THIS IS NO BUSINESS OF YOURS.
OKAY, LET'S SEE... YOU'VE ENGAGED IN PITCHED BATTLE WITH SOME KIND OF GIANT, FREAKING INTERGALACTIC... *THING* CAPABLE OF GOD-KNOWS-WHAT IN A PUBLIC PARK.
UHMM...YEAH. THAT IS *VERY MUCH* MY BUSINESS.
YOU SHOULD ONLY CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THINGS OVER WHICH YOU HAVE CONTROL--
HE'S *RIGHT,* SERSI.

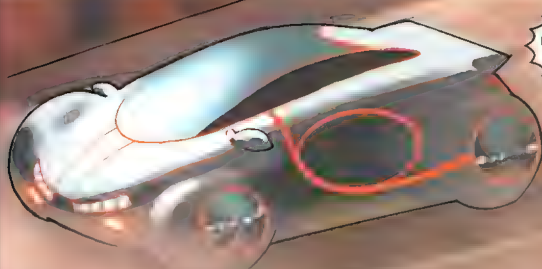

YOU HAVE OUR WORD THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.



ZUFFENHAUSEN, GERMANY. ZIFF-ENGEL MOTORWERKS TEST TRACK. THENA, IKARIS, AND PHASTOS.

EVERYTHING'S READY, SIR. THE VEHICLE'S A.I. SYSTEM HAS BEEN REPROGRAMMED PER YOUR SPECS...

VERY WELL.



HOW MANY LAPS?

UNTIL SHE RUNS OUT OF FUEL OR KISSES THE WALL.

MISTER STOSS...

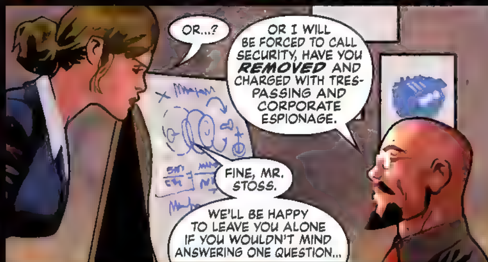
...WE WERE HOPING TO FINISH OUR CONVERSA-TION.


YOUR TEST-DRIVER IS EXTRAORDINARY, MR. STOSS. I HOPE HE'S WELL PAID.
THERE IS NO DRIVER...

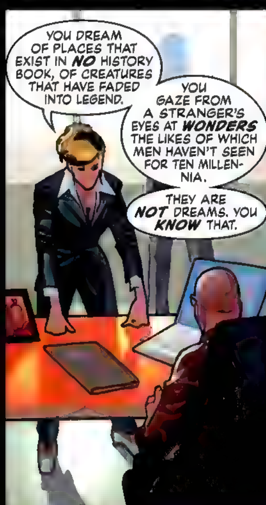

"...NOT EVEN A STEERING WHEEL. THE VEHICLE DRIVES *ITSELF.*"


THAT'S VERY COOL.
PLEASE DO NOT PATRONIZE ME. YOU SAY YOU ARE ATTORNEYS. I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CONTACTING MY FRIENDS IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY...


NO ONE HAS HEARD OF EITHER OF YOU. IT IS CLEAR YOU ARE *FRAUDS.*
YOU WILL TELL ME WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. *NOW.*


OR...?
OR I WILL BE FORCED TO CALL SECURITY, HAVE YOU *REMOVED* AND CHARGED WITH TRES-PASSING AND CORPORATE ESPIONAGE.
FINE, MR. STOSS.
WE'LL BE HAPPY TO LEAVE YOU ALONE IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND ANSWERING ONE QUESTION...


...HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SLEEPING?


YOU DREAM OF PLACES THAT EXIST IN ***NO*** HISTORY BOOK, OF CREATURES THAT HAVE FADED INTO LEGEND.
YOU GAZE FROM A STRANGER'S EYES AT ***WONDERS*** THE LIKES OF WHICH MEN HAVEN'T SEEN FOR TEN MILLENNIA.
THEY ARE ***NOT*** DREAMS. YOU ***KNOW*** THAT.


THIS IS THE DREAM. ***PHILLIP STOSS*** IS THE DREAM.


YOU ARE AN ETERNAL. ONE OF US.
YOU ARE ***PHASTOS.***


I THINK I WILL CALL ***SECURITY*** NOW.


OH, YEAH ***THIS*** IS WORKING

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER COMMAND CENTER.

MARIA, I'VE TAGGED TWO BOGIES WITH NANOCAMS. LOCK ON THEIR SIGNAL.

FREQUENCY?

ALPHA-GAMMA-ROMEO-NINER-TWO-FIVE.

CHECK.

HEADING?

SOUTH.

WHEN THEY HEAD INTO ANTARCTICA--

--I KNOW. TOO COLD. WE'LL LOSE THE NANOS.

MONITOR THEM AS LONG AS THEY'RE OPERATIONAL. WE NEED INTEL ON THESE CLOWNS.

GETTING TIRED OF THE OLD "IGNORANT MORTALS, THIS IS BEYOND YOUR PUNY COMPREHENSION" SHTICK?

YOU SAID IT.

GOIANA, BRAZIL.

THIS IS...

...PROBLEMATIC.



I THINK THIS CARNIVAL, SHE IS CLOSED, SEÑOR.
YOU THINK?

KRA-BOOSH!
IT'S GILGAMESH!

DRUIG, YOU WORM! I KNEW YOU WOULD BE THE FIRST TO COME!
HE TOLD ME YOU WOULD BE THE FIRST!

I CAN'T GET INTO HIS MIND!

WHAT MIND?!


NO! YOU WILL NOT--




NICE.
THANK YOU. THAT SHOULD HOLD--

RRAAAHHHHH!


HUUURK!

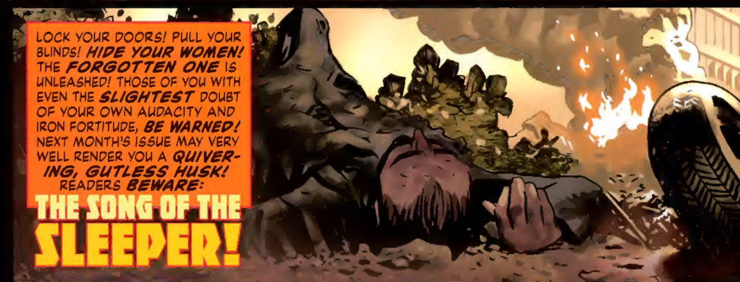

YOUR TURN, BETRAYER!


GRRUP!
YOU!
I COULD TWIST YOUR HEAD OFF LIKE CLAY. BUT YOU ARE WEAK...SAD... PATHETIC.


TELL THE OTHERS THAT THEIR VILE CONSPIRACY AGAINST ME IS ASHES. THEIR BETRAYAL WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED.
TELL THEM THE FORGOTTEN ONE IS COMING.
CR-CRACK!
EAAAHHH!


IS HE GONE?


LEGBA...?
I CAN'T TALK. HE CRUSHED MY LUNGS, AND I THINK HE BROKE MY PELVIS...
WELL, HE SHATTERED MY *SPINE.*


LOCK YOUR DOORS! PULL YOUR BLINDS! *HIDE YOUR WOMEN!* THE *FORGOTTEN ONE* IS UNLEASHED! THOSE OF YOU WITH EVEN THE *SLIGHTEST* DOUBT OF YOUR OWN AUDACITY AND IRON FORTITUDE, *BE WARNED!* NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE MAY VERY WELL RENDER YOU A *QUIVERING, GUTLESS HUSK!* READERS *BEWARE:*
THE SONG OF THE SLEEPER!


THIS IS GOING TO TAKE *HOURS* TO HEAL.